

LOYAL HANNA COAL & COKE COMPANY  
First Street and McGregor Avenue  
Cairnbrook  
Somerset County  
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-370

HAER  
PA  
56-CABE,  
2-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Location: 1st Street and McGregor Avenue,  
Cairnbrook, Somerset County, Pennsylvania

Date of Construction: 1912

Present Owner: Various private owners.

Present Use: Residences.

Significance: The Philadelphia-based Loyal Hanna Coal & Coke Company developed its No. 6 and No. 7 mines in Cairnbrook, beginning in 1912. This operation was typical of the many medium-sized coal concerns in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Historian: Gray Fitzsimons and Scott C. Brown, 1991

Project Information:

The results of the study of Somerset County were published in 1994: Gray Fitzsimons, Ken Rose, and Patricia Summers (eds), Somerset County, Pennsylvania: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service). The contents of the publication were transmitted to the Library of Congress as individual reports. Research notes, field photos and copies of historic photos collected during the project were transmitted to the AIHP Collection, Special Collections, Stapleton Library, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA 15705.

Among the early coal and coke enterprises operating in Westmoreland County's Latrobe was the Philadelphia-based Loyal Hanna Coal & Coke Company which opened the Loyal Hanna mine in the 1870s. Located along Saxman Run and the Pennsylvania Railroad, on the east side of Latrobe, this shaft-entry mine was one of the largest producers in Westmoreland County by 1880, when Loyal Hanna miners extracted over 118,000 tons of coal, most of which was coked in the nearby Loyal Hanna coke works. In 1886 a fire at the shaft destroyed the tippie, engine house, and washing plant. These structures were rebuilt and in 1890-91 Loyal Hanna Coal & Coke opened a new shaft next to the original shaft. By 1894 Loyal Hanna Coal & Coke was operating three shaft mines in the Latrobe area and had built a number of houses on the east side of Latrobe.

By 1910 the Loyal Hanna Coal & Coke Company was operating four mines -- the three in the Latrobe area and a fourth at Onnalinda, in Cambria County. Mine Nos. 1 and 2 employed 267 persons, producing over 123,000 tons of coal in 1910. The coke works at No. 1 contained 217 beehive ovens but produced a paltry 300 tons of coke in 1910. (The Pandora mine employed 128 persons in 1910 and that year produced over 55,000 tons of coal.) Most of the coal extracted at the company's mines was shipped to market and sold as steam coal.

Loyal Hanna Coal & Coke Company was led by its president John Pitcairn, a Scottish immigrant who settled in Pittsburgh in the 1840s and founded the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company. Pitcairn oversaw the expansion of Loyal Hanna Coal & Coke into Somerset County in 1912, as the company opened the No. 6 mine and developed the town of Cairnbrook on part of the Jacob McGregor farm. A post office was established in the town two years later. To the west of the company store, once served by a spur from the South Fork Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad, stood a company recreation hall, movie theater and fire hall. Mine buildings no longer extant at the Loyal Hanna No. 6 site include a filtration plant with an artesian well, a heating plant, a boiler house, an oil house, a sand house, a tippie and an office. Loyal Hanna No. 7, placed in operation a few years after No. 6, was located just southwest of Cairnbrook. During the First World War Loyal Hanna Coal & Coke abandoned its operations in Westmoreland County. Onnalinda in Cambria County served as the company's field office and Loyal Hanna Coal & Coke continued mining in Cambria and Somerset counties through the 1920s.

In 1920 Loyal Hanna Nos. 6 (a drift mine in the Lower Kittaning seam) and 7 (a drift mine in the Upper Kittaning seam) produced about 111,000 tons of coal and employed 185 workers. A peak year of production was 1940 when the mines produced about 390,000 tons of coal and employed 384 workers. Only Loyal Hanna No. 6 was in

operation by 1950, producing about 229,000 tons of coal and employing 230 workers. By 1958 mining had ceased. Cassler Lumber Company took over the mine buildings and constructed several others. Although Cairnbrook is not incorporated it owns and operates (under the Cairnbrook Improvement Company) its own water company, sewer system, and disposal plant.

At the northwest corner of SR 1016 and T 740 is a two-story brick company office, presently used as a residence. Its windows have been infilled with smaller windows and there is a brick tapestry pattern at the cornice level.

Sources:

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- Bureau for Historic Preservation, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Somerset County Historic Resource Survey. Prepared by Glessner, Lehman and Kendall, 1986.
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- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Mines and Mineral Industries: Bituminous Coal Division, 1931-1944 Annual Reports.
- Glenn, E. Bruce, Glencairn: The Story of a Home. Bryn Athyn, PA: Academy of the New Church, 1990.
- Pennsylvania Department of Mines. Report of the Department of Mines of Pennsylvania: Part II - Bituminous, 1919-1920. Harrisburg, PA: J.L.L. Kuhn, State Printer, 1925.
- Pennsylvania Department of Mines. Report of the Department of Mines of Pennsylvania: Part II - Bituminous, 1929-1930. Harrisburg, PA: n.p., 1932.
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- Sanborn Map Company. Cairnbrook, Pennsylvania. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1924.